

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13985 211143Z

15

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PRS-01 IO-10 EB-07

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 L-02 /073 W

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O R 211126Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1461

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13985

FROM PAGANELLI, EMBASSY DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, US, CENTO, XO, XF, PFOR, QA

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF US CARRIER TASK FORCE IN ARABIAN

SEA AND QATARI FEARS RE ALLEGED US PLAN FOR

MILITARY INTERVENTION IN OIL PRODUCING STATES

REF: STATE 242794

1. OVER PAST WEEK QATARI MEDIA HAVE BEEN REPEATING INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS ON ALLEGED US CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN OIL PRODUCING STATES OF GULF AND ELSEWHERE AS US RESPONSE TO WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS CAUSED BY HIGH OIL PRICES. IN OUR NORMAL RANGE OF CONTACTS WITH BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL QATARIS, WE HAVE DETECTED CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION ON SUBJECT. QATARIS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY WHAT THEY REGARD AS EQUIVOCAL DENIALS OF THESE STORIES BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 13985 211143Z

DONE AS MUCH AS WE CAN TO ALLAY LOCAL FEARS, QATARIS ARE

INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT US AT MINIMUM IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SUCH A MOVE.

2. CURRENT PRESENCE OF US CARRIER TASK FORCE IN ARABIAN SEA HAS NOT AS YET BEEN MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED US PLANS TO INTERVENE IN AREA. HOWEVER, SHOULD FORCE MOVE CLOSE TO OR INTO GULF, IT INEVITABLE THAT THIS ACTION WILL BE INTERPRETED AS AT LEAST A THREATENING GESTURE AGAINST OIL PRODUCING STATES WITH INEVITABLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES TO OUR RELATIONS HERE. HOWEVER WE EXPLAIN THIS ACTION AS OTHERWISE INTENDED, WE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BELIEVED. GODLEY

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NNN

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